



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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## Canada

## Honey

## Poor Weather Limits Honey Yields

2000

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**Report Highlights:** Statistics Canada estimates Canadian honey production in 2000 at 31,461 metric tons, 15% below the 1999 level of 37,009 metric tons, and 6% lower than the 1994-1998 five-year average. Poor weather in each of the major production regions limited honey production despite an increase in colony numbers.

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Includes PSD changes: Yes  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
Unscheduled Report  
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## Honey Production

According to Statistics Canada, Canadian honey production in 2000, at 31,461 metric tons, was 15% below the 1999 level of 37,009 metric tons, and 6% lower than the 1994-1998 five-year average. In most regions of the country, variable weather conditions had a negative impact on colony yields. In the major producing provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario, weather pattern extremes offered conditions that were either too wet, too dry, or too cool for yields to reach normal levels.

The production decline occurred despite an increase in the number of colonies. Total colonies increased to 603,828 during 2000, up 2.5% from 1999. The increase in the number of colonies was mostly attributable to higher colony numbers in Alberta and Manitoba. Alberta remained the number one honey producing province in 2000 accounting for about one-third of total Canadian output.

Given more favorable weather conditions than occurred during 2000, Canadian honey production is expected to rebound in 2001 to the 33,000 to 35,000 metric ton level.

PSD Table						
Country	Canada					
Commodity	Honey				(1000 COLONIES)(MT)	
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Commercial Colonies	515	589	0	604	0	610
NonCommercial Colonies	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Colonies	515	589	0	604	0	610
Beginning Stocks	7000	7000	0	6000	0	1000
Production	34000	37099	0	31461	0	35000
Imports	2600	2859	0	2300	0	2500
TOTAL SUPPLY	43600	46958	0	39761	0	38500
Exports	15000	14716	0	15500	0	16000
Domestic Consumption	26600	26242	0	23261	0	21500
Ending Stocks	2000	6000	0	1000	0	1000
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	43600	46958	0	39761	0	38500

## Honey Trade

Imports: Canada is a relatively minor importer of honey. Despite a reduced domestic crop in 2000, Canadian honey imports in the first eight months of the year were down 22% from the same period a year ago. China remains the primary supplier, but recent imports from China are down sharply from high levels recorded during the mid-1990s.

Canadian Honey Imports							
1997-1999 Calendar Years							
January to August Comparisons for '99 and '00							
Units: metric tons							
HS 0409							
					8 mos.	8 mos	% change
Country	1997	1998	1999		1999	2000	00/99
-- The World --	1,992	2,410	2,859		2,154	1,678	-22%
China	933	1,800	2,201		1,746	1,151	-34%
United States	448	405	377		219	289	32%
Argentina	297	1	69		29	78	167%
Switzerland	51	36	40		22	24	9%
Iran	3	8	3		2	24	1314%
Greece	67	14	35		34	24	-29%
New Zealand	29	24	34		26	22	-17%
Mexico	0	8	34		34	18	-49%
Australia	24	1	5		4	13	201%
Israel	3	13	13		13	9	-33%
France	3	3	11		10	6	-39%
Germany	7	12	10		2	6	247%
Others	127	84	28		12	15	19%
Source: World Trade Atlas							

Exports: Sharply higher honey exports to the United States in 1999 boosted total Canadian honey exports that year to 14,716 metric tons, up 31% from the year earlier level. Exports in the first eight months of 2000 were up 7% over the comparable period a year ago, but reduced honey production in 2000 could cause the year-to-year rate of increase to ease by year end.

Canadian Honey Exports						
1997-1999 Calendar Years						
January to August Comparisons for '99 and '00						
Units: metric tons						
HS 0409						
				8 mos.	8 mos	% change
Country	1997	1998	1999	1999	2000	00/99
-- The World --	7,420	11,208	14,716	11,056	11,813	7%
United States	3,941	7,050	12,084	9,368	10,297	10%
Germany	2,211	2,948	1,666	1,071	940	-12%
United Kingdom	424	278	250	123	163	32%
Japan	366	316	200	126	146	16%
Denmark	-	61	142	121	80	-34%
Netherlands	61	201	140	140	62	-56%
France	59	112	122	61	59	-3%
Switzerland	55	19	39	-	-	-
Ireland	45	32	39	24	-	-100%
Sweden	20	61	19	19	20	6%
Belgium	20	39	10	-	20	100+%
Others	218	91	5	3	26	100+%
World Trade Atlas						

## **Marketing**

Canada has no quantitative restrictions on honey imports from the United States but market opportunities for U.S. honey are limited by Canada's surplus production position and a weak Canadian dollar. However, prospects in the foodservice and specialty food markets remain fair. In the specialty food market, U.S. exporters are encouraged to explore opportunities at major specialty food shows held regularly in Canada. U.S. honey in jars must conform to the container size regulations noted below.

## **Tariffs**

Canada applies no import tariffs to honey imports.

## **Honey Regulations**

Quality standards, packaging and labeling requirements for honey are laid out in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Honey Regulations. The full text of the honey regulations is available at: <http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml>

## **Container Sizes**

Canadian honey regulations stipulate the following metric sizes for domestic or imported honey: any net weight up to 150 grams, 250 grams, 375 grams, 500 grams, 750 grams, 1 kg, 1.5 kg, 2kg, 3kg, and 5 kg. For bulk containers: 7 kg, 15kg, 30 kg, or any larger container where net weight is a multiple of 1 kg.

U.S. honey cannot meet Canada #1 or #2 grade if it contains foreign material that would be retained on a U.S. National Bureau of Standards 60 mesh screen. U.S. exporters marketing liquid honey containing a piece of honeycomb in the jar should note this restriction. Exports to Canada must be accompanied by an import declaration filled out by the shipper and the importer is responsible for inspection fees. Copies of the import declaration are available from the Dairy, Fruit & Vegetable Division, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, telephone (613) 225-2342.

## **Honeybee Prohibition Order**

Canada has banned imports of live U.S. bees since 1987 due to the presence of varroa mite in certain U.S. states. In 1993, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada permitted the resumption of the importation of queen bees from Hawaii under strict health measures. Under the authority of the Animal Health Act and Regulations, the GOC has been extending the import ban every two years. However, in 1999 the honeybee import prohibition order was extended until December 31, 2004.

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